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Economic and Social Council

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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Seventieth session
Agenda item 3(c)

Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

70/8. Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,

Welcoming the successful outcome of the Forum of Asian Minsters of Transport, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013,[1]

1. *Endorses* the Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration,[2] as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist members and associate members in the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration, in collaboration with other United Nations and specialized multilateral agencies, relevant subregional organizations, international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors and the private sector;

(b) To report to the Commission at its seventy-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Seventh plenary meeting
8 August 2014

[1] See E/ESCAP/70/12.

[2] Ibid., chap. I.

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Annex

Ministerial Declaration on Transport as a Key to Sustainable Development and Regional Integration

We, the Ministers of Transport and representatives of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific attending the second session of the Forum of Asian Ministers of Transport, held in Bangkok from 4 to 8 November 2013,

Recognizing the important role of safe, efficient, clean, reliable and affordable transport systems in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving social welfare of people and enhancing regional integration in Asia and the Pacific,

Reaffirming our commitment to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, including the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016) and the Regional Strategic Framework for the Facilitation of International Road Transport,[a]

Recalling the outcome document, entitled "The future we want",[b] of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, in which the Conference noted that transport and mobility are central to sustainable development,

Convinced of the importance of efficient movement of people and goods, and access to environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, the resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and the productivity of rural areas,

Emphasizing the importance of addressing physical and non-physical barriers to using and developing the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks in respective member countries,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/255 of 2 March 2010 on improving global road safety, in which the Assembly proclaimed the period 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety, and resolution 66/260 of 19 April 2012 on improving road safety, in which it encouraged Member States that had not yet done so to develop national plans in line with the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety 2011-2020,

Welcoming the adoption of the Joint Statement on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific at the Expert Group Meeting on Progress in Road Safety Improvement in Asia and the Pacific, held in Seoul from 8 to 10 May 2013, which recognized the importance of road safety as a sustainable development issue,[c]

Recalling Commission resolution 68/10 of 23 May 2012 on enhancing regional economic integration in Asia and the Pacific, in which the Commission emphasized that regional economic integration could play a critical role in driving the Asian and Pacific region's march to an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future,

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[a] See E/ESCAP/68/9, chap. I.

[b] General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

[c] See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/5, annex.

Stressing that the special development needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States need to be taken into account while establishing sustainable transport systems,

Recalling Commission resolution 69/6 of 1 May 2013 on the implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development, in which the Commission welcomed the Tehran Declaration on Public-Private Partnerships on Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific as the successful outcome of the Third Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public-Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development,

Welcoming the adoption of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific at the High-level Meeting on Strengthening Inter-island Shipping and Logistics in the Pacific Countries, held in Suva from 23 to 25 July 2013,[d]

Encouraged by the successful regional cooperation that led to the formalization of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports,[e] which will facilitate the development of more sustainable and inclusive transport systems by integrating modes of transport, facilitating border-crossing and transit transport, promoting the use of energy-efficient and lower-emission means of transport and creating new development opportunities in inland areas,

1. *Resolve* to develop and implement transport policies and strategies at the national and regional levels that will support sustainable development and regional integration by:

(a) Promoting an integrated approach to transport planning and policymaking, taking into account economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development;

(b) Strengthening regional cooperation to develop and operationalize regional and interregional transport infrastructure;

(c) Enhancing transport access to inland rural and remote areas, particularly those in landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

(d) Continuing to place road safety high on the sustainable development agenda;

2. *Invite* member States to take into account sustainable transport in the discussion of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;

3. *Encourage* member States that have not yet done so to consider signing the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports[e] and thereafter accede to, ratify, accept or approve the Agreement with a view to ensuring its early entry into force;

4. *Request* the Executive Secretary to continue to accord priority to the implementation of the Regional Action Programme for Transport Development in Asia and the Pacific, phase II (2012-2016),[f] especially to assist regional members and associate members in their efforts:

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[d] See E/ESCAP/FAMT(2)/6.

[e] Commission resolution 69/7, annex.

[f] Commission resolution 68/4, appendix I.

(a) To develop and operationalize the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks and dry ports of international importance;

(b) To take measures to facilitate cross-border and transit transport along regional and interregional transport networks;

(c) To strengthen inter-island shipping in archipelagic and island countries through the implementation of the Suva Declaration on Improving Maritime Transport and Related Services in the Pacific;[d]

(d) To develop and implement sustainable transport policies and strategies, in particular to promote energy efficient multi-modal transport, to develop integrated urban public transport systems, including promotion of non-motorized mobility, and to improve transport access to rural and remote areas;

(e) To continue to improve road safety, including through the implementation of the Joint Statement on Improving Road Safety in Asia and the Pacific,[c] in which the needs of vulnerable road users were highlighted in particular;

5. *Also request* the Executive Secretary to continue:

(a) To ensure effective coordination with other United Nations and specialized multilateral agencies as well as relevant subregional organizations;

(b) To collaborate with international and regional financing institutions, multilateral and bilateral donors, the private sector, and international organizations to mobilize financial and technical support for sustainable and inclusive transport development in Asia and the Pacific.